



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, February 10, 2011
No Executive Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

Program: As most of you know, CTOS member Dick Schier died unexpectedly last April. Dick was a great guy and emailed bird pictures to his friends frequently. The previous two years Dick did the February program showing birds he had photographed just in the previous year. To honor Dick I hope we can have a member every February do the program on birds they have photographed.

Tim Jeffers will be the first as he will do our program for the February 10 meeting. I have seen Tim's pictures. In addition to normal shots of birds he has some of birds in flight that show the birds in a way you may not have seen them before. At the end he will have a bird ID of some in flight that will challenge most if not all.

Field Trips

Saturday February 12, 2010: Blue Moon
Cruise to Hiwassee Island Meet 9:30
AM at the Sale Creek Marina
10 AM to 1:30 PM
Contact Kyle Waggener (434) 693-7533, or
email kylewag@yahoo.com to hold your
spot. Leave your name, party size, phone
number, and food preference (Chicken or
Vegetarian).
Cost \$20 per person. Please pay by check or
cash when boarding the boat.
Page 2 for more information

Saturday, February 26

Barn Owls & Woodcocks at Hayden
Wilson's Farm Meet 5:00 PM Eastern time
for Barn Owls, 6:15 for Wookcock
Leader: Hayden Wilson (423) 994-5359 for
more information

Hayden Wilson's field trip for Barn Owls
and Woodcocks has been a huge success in
past years. After we get our fill of birds all
are welcome to get their fill of hot dogs,
snacks and drinks. Hayden asks that anyone
staying for hot dogs, please call so he knows
how many hot dogs to buy. Plan to bring a
dessert or side dish to compliment the hot
dogs.

Directions: From Chattanooga go north on
U.S. Hwy. 27 to Soddy-Daisy. When the
highway splits after crossing Soddy Lake
take Hwy. 111 towards Dunlap. After you
cross the mountain, take the first exit (East
Valley Rd.). Turn right on East Valley Road
and go approximately 1 mile and then turn
left at Kelly's Crossroads. When the road
forks at the cemetery, turn left. Hayden's
house is less than ½ mile on left at the top of
the hill. His house number is 1664.

From the Treasurer

Thanks to all who have sent in their dues.
The State organization expects payment
from our local group by the end of January.
If you have not already sent in you dues,
please do so right away. If you are not sure,
call Cathy at 653-1640, or email
burdbrane@ymail.com.
Also, thanks for all the notes of
encouragement you have sent.

More on Blue Moon Cruise

Hiwassee Island, located in the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Tennessee Rivers, is the premier wintering observation site in the southeast for the magnificent Sandhill Crane. In North America the Sandhill Crane is second in height only to the Whooping Crane, which can sometimes be seen at Hiwassee as well. The Blue Moon's Eco-Cruise is an exceptional way to view not only the cranes but Bald Eagles as well. The refuge is the wintering home of more than 20 adult and juvenile Bald Eagles. We should get a good look at a couple of Bald Eagle nests on the cruise.

A chicken BBQ lunch is included with a veggie option available upon request. Trips may be canceled or postponed due to weather. Please leave Kyle a phone number where you may be reached the morning of the trip. If you must pay by credit card, contact Deanna at Blue Moon Cruises at 888-993-2583 and pay over the phone before the cruise.

What to bring:

The lower deck has an enclosed, climate controlled area for your comfort, but if you like to be outdoors on the open decks, dress in layers for the weather. You may want to bring binoculars and camera.

Directions to Sale Creek Marina

From the South - Chattanooga, TN

Take US 27 North (Corridor J) from Chattanooga through Soddy Daisy, TN (approx. 23 miles)

Continue north 5.5 miles past the Hwy 111 turnoff and continue to Bakewell.

Turn right at Amoco/BP station (at traffic light) onto McCallie Ferry Road.

Continue on McCallie Ferry approximately 2 miles and take the left fork onto May Road.

Go 0.7 mile to stop sign at Mayflower Road. Continue straight on May Road for 1.3 miles. Take 2nd right after crossroad onto Lee Pike.

Go 1.4 miles and take a left at the stone entrance into Regatta Point subdivision. Turn left into marina driveway. Parking is on the left.

Directions from Cleveland / Knoxville, TN
From I-75, take exit 25 onto Hwy 60 west. Stay on Hwy 60 toward Dayton, TN for approx. 20 miles through Birchwood to Hwy 27 (you will cross Hwy 58 and the TN River).

Turn left onto Hwy 27 south and go about 9 miles to Sale Creek.

In Sale Creek, pass under overhead School Zone sign.

Take next left onto Patterson Road which becomes Mayflower Rd. Follow Patterson/Mayflower Road approximately 3-1/2 miles to the first crossroad and turn left onto May Road.

Follow May Road approximately one mile and take 2nd right onto Lee Pike.

Follow Lee Pike approximately 1-1/2 miles. Turn left into Regatta Point subdivision and immediately left into the marina driveway.

Chattanooga Christmas Bird Count

The Chattanooga CBC was held on Saturday December 18. Twenty-one participants found 102 species which is a tiny bit above average for this count. Highlights included:

21 Canvasback (a new high number for the count)

12 Redhead

1 Red-breasted Merganser

7 Bald Eagles

1 Northern Harrier

1 Virginia Rail

7 Sandhill Crane

1 Red-breasted Nuthatch

3 Orange-crowned Warbler (new count high)

2 Palm Warbler

5 White-crowned Sparrow

28 Purple Finch

1 Pine Siskin

I want to thank everyone who helped with this count!

Kevin Calhoon

Chattanooga CBC compiler

Nickajack Christmas Bird Count

We had 10 people in four groups out on Jan. 2 for the 2010 count. We ended up with 81 species which is less than usual. Most of those missed were waterfowl. We had no unusual species.

Thanks again to everyone who helped, feel free to pass this on to anyone who is interested.

Dave Spicer, Ooltewah

Rusty Blackbirds

It's time for the third and final Rusty Blackbird Blitz! As most of you know, rusty blackbirds are an uncommon and declining species. The Blitz is a collaborative effort between the International Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group and E-Bird. This year, the Blitz is slated from January 29th through Feb. 13. Birders are requested to scour likely wintering habitat and report their findings directly to E-bird. The special link for the Blitz will explain how to log your sightings. Negative input is also important, so even if you don't see any "rusties," you should still report the results of your field trip to E-Bird.

Barbara Harris, Nashville, TN

Thanks to all who helped with the Sandhill Crane Viewing days at Birchwood.

Those we know about include Harold Birch, Carol and Ches Arthur, Joel Blevins, Danny Gaddy, Tim Jeffers, Linda Kelly, Star Klein, Cathy Lockwitz, Jonnie Sue Lyons, and David Stone.

Tagged Gulls

In 2007/2008 ring-billed gulls were reported in Tennessee with colored patagial tags. I saw two of those gulls and reported them and as a result got on the City of Chicago's Department of Environment mailing list for the study. They issued a report in 2008 and now they have sent me a later report with a different focus. The report is a 5-page pdf file. I will be glad to share it with anyone who requests but I don't think I can attach it to a TN-Bird posting.

Carole Gobert, Knoxville

January 6

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources are investigating the suspicious deaths of three whooping cranes in south Georgia.

The cranes were found and reported by hunters in Calhoun County, just west of Albany, Georgia., on Dec 30, 2010.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman Tom MacKenzie said the deaths are considered suspicious since the birds were found together. He said a predator would generally kill a single bird at a time.

The landowner reported the cranes had been in the area for a few weeks before they found them dead just before New Year's Eve. Necropsies are expected to be completed in about two weeks.

Any information concerning the deaths of these cranes should be provided to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Terry Hasting at 404-763-7959 (ext. 233).

David Aborn
Chattanooga, TN

We are looking for Bald Eagle nests across Tennessee in 2011. TWRA, in partner with other government agencies and private citizens, has been monitoring Bald Eagle nests across the state for many years; however there are gaps in our monitoring, nest locations have moved, and many new nests are appearing annually. In 2011, we are aiming to conduct a complete inventory of eagle nests in the state and we need your help!

If you know of any Bald Eagle nests or have questions, please contact me at 615-781-6653 or scott.somershoe@tn.gov
Scott Somershoe
State Ornithologist and Bald Eagle Coordinator

Crane Hunt

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission has voted to postpone considering a hunting season for Sandhill Cranes for two years. In the meantime there is no legal crane hunt in Tennessee.

Join and Support TOS

\$28 – Individual \$32 - Family
\$15 - Student \$40 - Sustaining
\$460 – Life member (Life members must pay
additional \$10 local chapter dues each year.)

Send checks to Cathy Lockwitz, P.O. Box
2003 Collegedale, TN 37315. (423) 653-1640
Note: all dues, donations, gifts, and bequests
are tax deductible under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the
internal Revenue Code of the U.S. Please
make checks payable to TOS

Your Chattanooga Chapter, TOS
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Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 2003 Collegedale, TN 37315

Chattanooga TOS Website:
www.chattanoogatos.org

YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER, TOS

Membership in TOS is:
The Chattanooga Chat, monthly newsletter
The Tennessee Warbler, statewide newsletter
The Migrant, quarterly journal
Meetings, Field Trips and Special Events
Conservation and Educational Projects
**Increasing knowledge and enjoyment of our
natural world**

To Our New Members
A warm welcome to “The Wonderful World
of Birds”... Join in the fun... Come to all of
our events and bring your friend(s) if you
wish.